

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Waste Management Division
Hazardous Waste Program
406/444-1430

FAX # (406) 444-1499



STATE OF MONTANA

OFFICE 2209 PHOENIX AVE.
LOCATION: HELENA, MONTANA

MAILING PO BOX 200901
ADDRESS: HELENA, MT 59620-0901



August 3, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

You have expressed interest in Burlington Northern Railroad's (BN) activities at the former Somers Tie Treating Plant. The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (MDHES) and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII (EPA) are currently in the process of issuing a hazardous waste management permit to BN for the post-closure care of two closed surface impoundments at the facility. The surface impoundments are adjacent to the land treatment unit currently under EPA Superfund supervision. The impoundments are regulated by MDHES and are not part of the Superfund activities.

The permit will require post-closure maintenance and groundwater monitoring of the closed impoundments for up to 30 years. In addition, the permit requires further investigation of three 'solid waste management units' (SWMUs) at the facility to determine if any contaminant releases have occurred. The EPA will oversee activities associated with the three 'SWMUs'.

I have included a fact sheet with information concerning the surface impoundments and SWMUs. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on the post-closure permit during a 45 day comment period. The comment period begins on August 5, 1994 and ends on September 16, 1994. There will also be a public hearing on September 13, 1994 at 7:00 PM in the Somers School Cafeteria, 315 School Addition Road, Somers, MT.

The draft permit will be available for review at the following locations:

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| 1) Waste Management Division
2209 Phoenix Ave.
Helena, MT (444-1430)
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, M - F | 2) Somers School
315 School Addition Road
Somers, MT (857-3661)
7 AM to 2 PM, M - F (August 5 - 31)
8 AM to 4 PM, (August 31 - Sept. 13) |
| 3) U.S.EPA
Federal Building, 301 S. Park
Helena, MT
(406) 449-5414
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, M - F | |

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 444-1430. We look forward to your comments and participation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Holmes

Rebecca Holmes
Solid and Hazardous Waste Specialist

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

AUG - 5 1994

MONTANA OFFICE

"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (MDHES) and the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII (EPA) intend to issue a hazardous waste management permit under Title 75, Chapter 10, Part 4 of the Montana Hazardous Waste and Underground Storage Act (MHWUSTA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA) to Burlington Northern Railroad Company for the post-closure care of two closed surface impoundments at the Somers Tie Treating Plant in Somers, Montana. The State of Montana is authorized to administer and enforce those portions of RCRA in effect prior to the enactment of HSWA. EPA retains authority for HSWA regulations.

Burlington Northern Railroad (BN) operated the closed surface impoundments from 1971 to 1984 for the disposal of wastewater generated at the tie treating plant. In 1984, the impoundments were relined and used to stockpile wastes generated during Superfund cleanup of a separate portion of the plant site. All the stockpiled wastes were then transferred to BN's land treatment site in Paradise, Montana. Both surface impoundments were closed and capped with asphalt in 1988. BN is required by RCRA to have a post-closure permit which will specify the procedures for groundwater monitoring and maintenance for the unit for up to thirty years.

As part of the RCRA permit, EPA Region VIII proposes to regulate Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) at the Somers site subject to the corrective action provisions of HSWA. SWMUs are any active or inactive units at the facility which were used to manage waste, irrespective of when the waste was placed in the unit or whether that unit was intended for the management of solid or hazardous wastes. Nineteen SWMUs and other areas of concern were identified during a preliminary evaluation by EPA. Sixteen of these units have already been addressed, primarily under Superfund operations. The remaining 3 units are required to be investigated under the draft permit. The draft permit requires an investigation of SWMUs where there is or has been a probable release that poses a threat to human health and the environment and corrective action if a release is confirmed.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the members of the public of the draft permit and the draft environmental assessment and to seek their participation in the decision-making process. Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) and Section 7004(b) of RCRA and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 124.10, a forty-five (45) day comment period through September 16, 1994 will be given to the public to submit written comments to the Department and the EPA concerning the draft permit and draft environmental assessment. Both documents will be available for examination at the following locations: Waste Management Division, 2209 Phoenix Ave., Helena, MT, phone: 444-1430; Somers School, 315 School Addition Road, Somers, MT, phone: 857-3661, Somers, MT. A copy of the permit is also available for review at: U.S.EPA, Federal Building, 301 S. Park, Helena, MT between the hours 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, phone 449-5414. A fact sheet describing the facility and permit requirements is also available for review at the locations listed above.

A public hearing will be held on September 13, 1994 at 7:00 PM in the Somers School Cafeteria, 315 School Addition Road, Somers, MT (phone 406/857-3661).

All written comments should be addressed to Rebecca Holmes of the Waste Management Division, Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Cogswell Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620, phone 444-1430 or Stephanie Wallace, U.S. EPA, Federal Building, 301 S. Park, Drawer 10096, Helena, Mt 59626, phone 449-5414. Interested persons may also call or write for additional information on the draft permit.

Dated August 2, 1994.